

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 EUR-25 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 311126 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9445

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5326

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP MARCH 31

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG MAR 31
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE NHA TRANG 349

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTION LIGHT. US AND DRV ELEMENTS OF
FPJMC DEPART TRUCE REGIONS 3 AND 4. SOME ICCS SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS
BEGINNING INVESTIGATIONS WHILE OTHERS STILL DISCUSSING PROCEDURES.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY DWINDLED TO INSIGNIFI-
CANT LEVELS DURING 24- HOUR REPORTING PERIOD. WHAT LITTLE THERE
WAS TOOK PLACE MAINLY IN COASTAL AREAS. MOST NOTEWORTHY INCIDENT
WAS IN NORMALLY- PLACID CAM RANH, WHERE PF PLATOON KILLED THREE VC
AND CAPTURED THREE WEAPONS; THIS WAS FIRST INCIDENT INVOLVING
CASUALTIES IN IJM RANH SINCE FEB 4. BINH DINH, SCENE OF REGION' S
HEAVIEST POST- CEASE- FIRE FIGHTING, HAD UNUSUALLY QUIET DAY
MARCH 30. KHANH HOA REPORTED TWO INCIDENTS, ONE A HAMLET INCURSION
IN CAM LAM DISTRICT WHERE FREE- SPENDING COMMUNIST
TROOPS PAID OUT VN \$52,000 FOR RICE AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

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3. ONLY INCIDENTS REPORTED ANYWHERE IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WERE IN PLEIKU, SPECIFICALLY THE PLEI YIT/ THANH GIAO AREA OF WESTERN THANH AN DISTRICT. TWO MORTARINGS, ONE GRENADE INCIDENT AND ONE FIREFIGHT THERE RESULTED IN TOTAL OF FIVE FRIENDLY TROOPS WOUNDED, TWO ENEMY KIA, AND ONE WEAPON CAPTURED.

4. DELAYED REPORT FROM BINH THUAN INDICATES THAT GROUP OF 69 CIVILIANS IN HOA DA DISTRICT WERE TEMPORARILY ABDUCTED MARCH 27 AND MADE TO LISTEN TO VC PROPAGANDA LECTURE ON MEANING OF PARIS AGREEMENT. AFTER HEARING DETAILS OF " COMMUNIST VICTORY," CAPTIVE AUDIENCE WAS RELEASED.

5. FPJMC/ TPJMC: ALL DRV DELEGATES TO FPJMC DEPARTED TRUCE REGIONS

3 AND 4 MARCH 30. PLEIKU DRV ELEMENT EXPERIENCED AIRPORT DELAYS LASTING THREE TO FOUR HOURS; DELEGATES WERE KEPT WAITING IN BUSES WHILE BAGGAGE- ALLOWANCE DIFFICULTIES WERE DEBATED. ICCS CANDEL MEDIATED DISPUTE AND DRV PERSONNEL WERE FINALLY PERMITTED TO TAKE BAGGAGE ALONG.

6. AS OF MID- AFTERNOON MARCH 30, 46 PRG DELEGATES WERE STILL AWAITING TRANSPORTATION FROM PHAN THIET (TR 4 HQ) TO SAIGON. (NO LATER INFO AVAILABLE.) ACCORDING TO US JMC ELEMENT THERE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PRG AND GVN ELEMENTS OF FPJMC SUFFERED LAST- MINUTE DETERIORATION.

7. CHIEF US DELEGATE TO TR3 FPJMC LED STAND- DOWN CEREMONY IN PLEIKU MORNING MARCH 31 BEFORE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE AT 1000 HOURS.

8. CHIEF OF GVN JMT ELEMENT IN CHEO REO WILL STAY ON WITH TPJMC. HIS COUNTERPART IN NINH HOA EXPECTS TO DO LIKEWISE ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT YET HAVE ORDERS. BY CONTRAST, GVN TEAM CHIEF IN TUY AN BEING TRANSFERRED TO MR-4 ON APRIL 1; DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR SECURITY (PHU YEN) WILL HEAD GVN' S TPJMT ELEMENT.

9. ICCS: MGEN MCALPINE, CHIEF MILITARY CANDEL IN SAIGON, UNDERSTOOD TO BE MAKING PRIVATE VISIT FOR R&R TO CAM RANH AND NHA TRANG MARCH 31- APRIL 1. ACCOMPANYING HIM BACK TO SAIGON TOMORROW WILL BE CAPT. DAVID MARTIN, WHO HAS SPENT PAST MONTH ON NHA TRANG AND CAM RANH TEAMS AND WILL NOW BECOME MCALPINE' S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. (THE TWO REPORTEDLY SERVED TOGETHER ON CYPRUS PEACE- KEEPING FORCE

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AND IN RECENTLY- DISSOLVED BLACK WATCH REGIMENT, WHICH MCALPINE COMMANDED.) WITH MARTIN' S DEPARTURE, CAM RANH TEAM TEMPORARILY REDUCED TO TWO- MAN INDODEL. A CANDEL WILL REPLACE MARTIN APRIL 2, BUT STILL NO WORD ON RETURN OF HUNGDEL OR INITIAL DEPLOYMENT OF POLDEL.

10. TUY AN SUB- REGIONAL TEAM WAS TO BEGIN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF MARCH 20 TRAIN MINING IN HIEU XUONG DISTRICT, PHU YEN , ON MARCH 31, AND BAN ME THUOT TEAM HAS FINALLY EMBARKED ON INVESTIGATION OF TWO INCIDENTS IN BUON HO DISTRICT, DARLAC. HOWEVER, ICCS TEAMS IN PHU BON (ALSO TR 3) AND BINH THUAN (TR 4) REMAIN STUCK IN CYCLE OF DISCUSSION, DELAY, AND FURTHER DISCUSSION. SIGNED ENGLE UNQUOTE
BENNETT

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